

Ref 1.
Liz Canning

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To: martin.bicevskis@dhhs.tas.gov.au

cc:

Subject: wentworth tip

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Hi Martin

Im just sorting out a few older sites today and thought Id check where we are up to on this one. i have a number of articles on landfill sites but of course most are for hazardous waste sites. A number of them have the same problem we have in that we cant conduct direct exposure measurements. Did you ever hear anything back from Council re what they might have sprayed in the area and what types of waste might have gone into the landfill? Also have you had any contact with Mrs Laputnuik in the past few months and has she contacted a cancer support group?

Clearly our problem here is that we cant determine what might have left the landfill in dust or water at the time that she lived there. Any studies we do now cant answer the question that she wants answered. I guess the only direct study that would be possible now is to look at groundwater contamination but even if GW is contaminated that will not tell us anything about her families possible exposure 20 or 30 years ago (and of course the range of problems that has been experienced by her family would be difficult to attribute to any particular chemicals that might be found). Although it may be a good idea to look at old landfill sites (particularly those in residential areas or environmentally sensitive sites) i think it would be better conducted as part of a broader survey of such sites.

Still, perhaps we should discuss these issues in the new year. Im off on maternity leave at the end of Feb so it would be good to sort out before then if we can do anything further on this site. Have a great xmas, it should be lovely on Maria island

regards

Liz

Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment
Tasmania
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